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FM THE WHITE HOUSE TOHAK 86

ZEM

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD [REDACTED] WH30068

TOHAK 86

25X1 DELIVER TO LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

25X1

DIA & DOS review(s)
completed.

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI PER C03355517

SOUTH VIETNAMESE ENVOYS MEET WITH JOHNSON AND ROGERS: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN DO AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. BUI DIEM TOLD UNDER SECRETARY JOHNSON AND SECRETARY ROGERS SEPARATELY THAT THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT WAS TO GATHER INFORMATION ON CURRENT U.S. ATTITUDES ON THE VIETNAM QUESTION AND TO DISPEL ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF SAIGON'S POSITION -- SUCH AS THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WAS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE. HOWEVER, AS THE DISCUSSIONS PROGRESSED, THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF NVA TROOPS EMERGED AS THEIR MAIN FOCUS. THEY WERE TOLD THAT WHILE NO ONE WANTED TO SEE A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS ASKING WHY THE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT BY NOW BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF -- IN VIEW OF ALL THE U.S. AID. THEY WERE ALSO TOLD THAT IF SAIGON DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT A PEACE AGREEMENT PRESIDENT NIXON CONSIDERED RIGHT, THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PEOPLE COULD NO LONGER BE COUNTED ON FOR SUPPORT. DO AND DIEM MADE NO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THEIR EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED SOME CALLS ON THE HILL, PROBABLY INCLUDING SENATORS MANSFIELD AND AIKEN.

CHANGE IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE INFORMATION MINISTRY: CIA REPORTS THAT SOUTH VIETNAM'S INFORMATION MINISTRY IS BEING REORGANIZED AND PLACED DIRECTLY UNDER THE PRESIDENCY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. KEY PRESIDENTIAL AIDE HOANG DUC NHA HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE. NHA IS THIEU'S NEPHEW, AND THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY REGARDS HIM AS A MAN HE CAN TRUST. THIS CHANGE APPEARS TO BE A FOLLOW-UP TO THE PRESS DECREE THAT TIGHTENED GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER OPPOSITION PAPERS LAST SUMMER AND MAY ALSO BE PART OF THIEU'S EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POWERS PRIOR TO A CEASE-FIRE. SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED IN PRIVATE THAT THEY BELIEVE THE PRESS DECREE AND THE RECENT DECREE ON POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL THE POPULATION AFTER THE FIGHTING STOPS. THE PRESS DECREE, THEY FEEL, ALREADY IS PREVENTING OPPOSITION JOURNALS FROM UNDERMINING CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE THE DECREE ON PARTIES WILL BLOCK THE VIET CONG FROM INFILTRATING AND GAINING CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES.

TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA: COMMUNIST TERRORISTS FIRED TWO ROCKETS NEAR THE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING LAST NIGHT, CAUSING ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND NO INJURIES. A SHORT TIME LATER, HOWEVER, AN EXPLOSION NEARER THE BUILDING INJURED SEVERAL PERSONS, TWO SERIOUSLY. SAPPERS ALSO SABOTAGED A U.S. CARGO SHIP WHILE IT WAS UNLOADING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND RICE AT KOMPONG SOM, BLOWING TWO HOLES IN THE PORT SIDE. ACCORDING TO OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE IN PHNOM PENH, THE SHIP IS NOT IN DANGER OF SINKING BUT WILL NEED REPAIR WORK TO MAKE IT SEAWORTHY.

POMPIDOU-BREZHNEV TALKS: CIA BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S TALKS WITH SOVIET PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV, WHICH BEGIN TODAY, WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON EUROPEAN MATTERS AND COULD AFFECT THE FORTHCOMING FRENCH ELECTIONS. THE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT ARE LIKELY TO FOCUS ON CSCE AND MBFJ. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WANT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS, BUT PARIS' NEGATIVE ATTITUDE REMAINS UNCHANGED. ALTHOUGH A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS ON FRIDAY, NO NEW AGREEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED. POMPIDOU'S REMARKS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THIS WEEK INDICATE THAT HE SEES HIMSELF -- FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES -- GOING TO THE USSR AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR WESTERN EUROPE. HIS TRIP HAS ALREADY PROVIDED CAMPAIGN AMMUNITION FOR THE GAULLISTS.

THE TIMING OF THE TRIP HAS IRRITATED THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF), WHOSE ALLIANCE WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND LEFT RADICALS FOR THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN MARCH HAS PRESENTED THE GAULLISTS WITH A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS WILL GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ASSIST THE PCF CAMPAIGN. IN FACT, THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH A GAULLIST GOVERNMENT.

FOODGRAINS FOR BANGLADESH: CIA REPORTS THAT UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM HAS APPEALED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES TO DONATE 1.7 MILLION TONS OF FOODGRAINS TO BANGLADESH THIS YEAR. THIS WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE 800,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS THAT DACCA WILL TRY TO PURCHASE COMMERCIALY AND WOULD HELP MEET THE 2.5 MILLION TONS IMPORT REQUIREMENT THAT A UN STUDY TEAM ESTIMATED BANGLADESH WOULD NEED. THE PROJECTED FOODGRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR THIS YEAR IS ABOUT EQUAL TO ACTUAL IMPORTS IN 1972. THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE THAT THE IMPORT REQUIREMENT COULD BE REDUCED WAS DASHED BECAUSE THE MAJOR WINTER RICE CROP WAS UNUSUALLY LOW AS A RESULT OF ERRATIC MONSOON RAINS. COMPLICATING THE SUPPLY PICTURE THIS YEAR IS THE WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS, HEAVY PRESSURES ON WORLD SHIPPING, AND THE INABILITY OF INDIA -- WHICH DONATED 800,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS TO BANGLADESH LAST YEAR -- TO CONTRIBUTE THIS YEAR BECAUSE A DROUGHT REDUCED ITS OWN CROPS. SO FAR, BANGLADESH HAS ARRANGED FOR PURCHASE OF ABOUT 450,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS, AND ABOUT 350,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS HAVE BEEN DONATED, INCLUDING 200,000 TONS BY THE U.S.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: ANDREW BOROWIEC REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT TODAY PROPOSED IN THE 174TH PLENARY SESSION THAT BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM FLEDGE "MUTUAL RESPECT OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY" AS A CONDITION TO PEACE. THE PROPOSAL AND THE SUBSEQUENT COMMUNIST REACTION CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ON THE QUESTION OF VIETNAM'S UNITY IN YOUR PARALLEL TALKS, WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BE CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER VIETNAM IS ONE COUNTRY OR TWO.

COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO EXPECT A CEASE-FIRE ONCE AGAIN, BUT ONE WHICH IS MORE VAGUE THAN THE TRUCE AGREEMENT LAST FALL. HANOI REGARDS THE CURRENT BUILDUP OF ITS FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS PART OF A FINAL PUSH BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE.

IN AN EDITORIAL TITLED "POMPIDOU AND CIRCUMSTANCE," THE STAR DISCUSSES THE "PERFECTLY INOPPORTUNE" (ACCORDING TO POMPIDOU) VISIT OF SIX SOCIALIST HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO PARIS FOR A MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. HE SEES THE ATTENDANCE OF THESE LEADERS, PARTICULARLY MRS. MEIR, AS AN INTERVENTION IN FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE ELECTORAL FORTUNES OF FRANCOIS MITTERRAND OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. PROBABLY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER TO SEND HER REGRETS, FOR IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ISRAEL WOULD FARE BETTER WITH A FRENCH GOVERNMENT DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS.

CROSBY NOYES BELIEVES THAT THE THREAT TO RENEW THE BOMBING IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE LATEST PARIS TALKS. THE BOMBING LAST MONTH WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE LENGTH TO WHICH THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO GO TO ACHIEVE ITS DEFINITION OF AN HONORABLE PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMPORTMENT THROUGHOUT THE BOMBING WAS DELIBERATELY CALCULATED, ACCORDING TO NOYES, TO REINFORCE AN IMPRESSION OF RUTHLESS DETERMINATION. WHETHER OR NOT HE RESUMES THE BOMBING, HE IS DETERMINED TO MAKE NORTH VIETNAM THINK HE WILL.

MILTON VIORST THINKS THERE IS ONE WORD WHICH EXPLAINS MOSCOW'S WILLINGNESS TO STAND BY WHILE THE U.S. CONTINUES TO WAGE WAR AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM: BREAD. WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE SAYING IS THAT IF THE WELL-BEING OF NORTH VIETNAM BECOMES AN OBSTACLE TO TRADE WITH THE U.S., THEN NORTH VIETNAM HAS TO BE SACRIFICED.

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